

The Significance of The Jenkins Plantation

**Author
Karen N. Cartwright Nance**



Historic Jenkins House, ca. 1900

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Preface

The US Army Corps of Engineers purchased the Historic Brigadier General Albert G. Jenkins House (Jenkins House) from Clara & James Knight when it purchased land to meet its wetlands' mitigation requirements due to the construction of the Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam located in Mason County. The Greenbottom Society, Inc. (Society) became concerned about the Corps' and West Virginia Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) planned use of the Jenkins House as a private residence for the DNR Wildlife Manager. Thus, the Society began its campaign for the development of the Jenkins House as a historic museum. As a result, an agreement for Culture & History to sublease the house and surrounding grounds from the DNR was signed. Under the "Memorandum of Understanding of Greenbottom," the DNR agreed to sublease the house and grounds to Culture & History to restore the house and open it for public interpretation and programming.

In the Spring of 1996, Culture & History signed a sublease with the DNR and hired a Site Superintendent, Ellyn Cameron. Ms. Cameron took possession of the Historic Jenkins House, August 1996, and the Jenkins Plantation Museum was established. Since August, Ms. Cameron has opened the house to the public on numerous occasions for meetings and group tours. In December and January, the Jenkins Plantation presented its first major event: "Dickensian Holidays."

The Jenkins Plantation Museum needs both financial support and gifts of period furniture and furnishings. Volunteers are needed for program planning, activities, research, tour guides, living histories, operation, and volunteer organization. Thus, the Greenbottom Society, Inc. plans to raise an endowment that's income will provide funds for operation and development.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the project is to restore and operate the Historic General Jenkins House as a historic plantation museum that interprets the Virginia heritage of the area prior to and during the Civil War and the life and times of Brigadier General Albert G. Jenkins (1835-1864) as well as to examine the impact of Virginia heritage and General Jenkins life on the area. The facility will provide a site for interpretation of the African-American experience in western (West) Virginia prior to the passage of the West Virginia Statehood Bill in 1863. Also, the facility will interpret Women's lives, both white and African-American, of the era. The facility will provide the State of West Virginia with an unique and much needed tourist attraction. The Jenkins House will complement the other historic preservation and heritage education projects in the area such as the Historic Madie Carroll House, Guyandotte Civil War Days (Albert Jenkins participated), Underground Railroad Project (slaves escaped from the Jenkins plantation), and Heritage Site Tours. In addition, the project will provide the area with research and interpretation of the unique wetlands of the Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area.

Historical Significance of Site

The National Trust of Historic Preservation under the US Department of Interior and National Park Service states register criteria to be the following:

"The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons of significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history." (*National...6*)

The General Jenkins House met these requirements in 1978 as well as the Clover, a Prehistoric Indian Site, in 1989. The sites were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Both sites are located in the Greenbottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, West Virginia. Other prehistoric and historic sites located on the property have yet to be determined as qualified for listing on the National Register.

Prehistoric - Greenbottom Site

The Greenbottom area historically was a site of settlement, not only for the early Europeans and African-Americans who came to the area, but also for Native American Indians. The Corps completed extensive archaeological research on the area and discovered more than one early Native American settlement and other Indian sites.

The Greenbottom area is significant due to its association with events that contribute to broad patterns of the history of

Native Americans, its embodiment of distinctive characteristics of Native Americans in the Fort Ancient Period, and its yield of information important to the history of Native Americans. The most significant is the Clover Indian Site. The historical documentation for the site is over fifty years old dating to surface finds collected since the 1920s. In 1984, Marshall University's department of Anthropology/Sociology began a scientific excavation of the site. Further research was completed after the Corps bought the property. The site is a 'Fort Ancient' settlement of Native Americans. The 'Fort Ancient' Native Americans resided in the Ohio Valley and on the Ohio River tributaries between Parkersburg, West Virginia and Cincinnati, Ohio, during the period of approximately 1000 A.D. to 1675 A.D. The Clover Indians were late 'Fort Ancient' Indians who date to the prehistoric period when contact with Europeans occurred. The Clover Indians lived inside circular shaped villages in rectangular post houses with a center plaza. The Clover Indians were one of the last Indian cultures to live in what is now West Virginia before the state moved into a "Hunting Ground" period. ("Clover: The Second Season") The site was put on the National Register.

Historic - Greenbottom Site

The site is significant due to its association with events that contribute to broad patterns of the history of western expansion in a slave state, its embodiment of distinctive characteristics of early white and African-American settlers, its yield of information important to the history of Virginia and West Virginia, and its association with the lives of Virginia Governors Wilson Cary Nicholas and William H. Cabell who are significant to our past.

Early Land Owners & Settlers at Greenbottom

As with most land on the western Virginia frontier, ownership of the site is recorded to have begun in the late 1700s with

land grants. Joshua Fry was granted 4,411 acres of the land in ca. 1754 for his participation in the French & Indian War. George Spurlock obtained a small tract of the land sometime before 1805 and is believed to be the first person to reside on the property. Fry sold much of the land to Wilson Cary Nicholas, Governor of Virginia (December 1814 - December 1816). Later, Wilson Cary Nicholas transferred the land to William H. Cabell, also a Governor of Virginia (December 1805 - December 1808). (Dickinson, "Historical Survey..." 1-2)

Daniel and Jessie Spurlock settled on the Wilson C. Nicholas property before 1811. The Spurlock family lived in log huts on the right and left hand forks of Spurlock Creek. "The principle occupation of these early settlers was logging." ("Walnut Grove" Lambert Notebook)

African-Americans at Greenbottom



Mary, slave and "nanny" for
Capt. William Jenkins children

Plantations are significant to African-American history and culture in the Virginia, Mid-Ohio Valley because with only small towns such as Guyandotte on the western frontier, most African-Americans lived on plantations such as Greenbottom. The slaves on these plantations often were only separated from freedom by the Ohio River.

Dr. Marilyn Davis-DeEulis discovered in her research that Wilson C. Nicholas and William H. Cabell both operated overseer plantations at Greenbottom during their ownership of the property (1811-24). In 1820, fifty-three of the three hundred and ninety two slaves in Cabell County worked on the Greenbottom Plantation (Cabell Co. 1820). When Nicholas sold the plantation to Cabell the following slaves were named in the deed: Ben, Moses (a runaway), Jack, Kit, Davey, Charles, Bob, John, Joe, Jim, Armstead, Cimon, Peter, Washington, Phillip, Dolly, Daphney, Isabell, Milly, Nelson (Milly's child), Maria (Milly's child), Nathan (Milly's child), Solomon (Isabel's child), and Winney (Isabel's child) (Cabell/Nicholas Deed Book 3/360).

In Rockbridge County, Virginia, Capt. Jenkins reported owning, in 1810, 17 slaves, and in 1820, 19 slaves (one free male African-American, 14-26 years old lived in his household) (Rockbridge Co. 1810 & 20). After purchasing the Greenbottom Plantation and several of its slaves, Capt. Jenkins reported he owned 33 slaves in 1830; by 1840, 37 slaves; in 1850, 55 slaves (US Census, 1830 & 40; Slave Schedules 1850). Capt. Jenkins died in 1859, and his slaves went to his heirs. The Jenkins slaves do not appear in the Cabell County 1860 Slave Schedules. However, in the 1860 Personal Property Tax Records, that only report male slaves over 12 years old, the three sons who inherited Capt. Jenkins' slaves owned 36 male slaves over 12 years old compared to 8 of 22 males over the age of 12 in 1850. (Cabell Co. 1860) This would indicate that the number of African-American slaves on the plantation had increased and may have been over 80.

Throughout Capt. Jenkins ownership, more female than male slaves worked on the plantation. More than likely, the reason for more female and young male slaves than male slaves was because female slaves and males under 12 years were not taxed. For example, the population of slaves in 1850 included 33 females and 22 males with a total of 55 (two more of Th. Jenkins). Over half the slaves were under 10 years old (14 of the 22 males) with the second largest age group, 10-24 years (in 1840 less slaves but still more females than males and most under 24).

As on most plantations, slaves provided the labor and craftsmanship to build the plantation buildings. They also provided the labor in the plantation fields and were servants in the main house. At Greenbottom the slaves made brick and hewed logs for the building of Capt. Jenkins' brick plantation house in the 1830s.

Not all of Greenbottom's slaves were content to stay on the plantation. Capt. Jenkins shared, like other plantation owners in the Ohio Valley, a problem with escaping slaves. Abolitionists, white and African-American, often operated safe houses or Underground Railroad stations near the free banks of the Ohio River tempting African-Americans in servitude to cross the river to possible freedom. Capt. Jenkins, according to the Cabell County Records, was sued by James Shelton, a local slave catcher and owner of a plantation at the end of West Pea Ridge, in 1827 for not paying him enough for the return of one slave. Again in 1848, Capt. Jenkins had a case involving slave stealing in front of the court. (Extracts from the Records of County Court) Another example, in 1857, Charles Morris went to court to have four of his slaves returned from Lawrence County, Ohio (Extracts from the Records of County Court). Many accounts of escaping slaves are known. One account of slaves escaping across the river was told by Mrs. Emily Magee Prichard in 1929. She remembers her family hiding one runaway in their home in Proctorville, Ohio, for

several days before "she was sent to relatives of her own back in the county." (Smith, Wiatt).

Greenbottom was the largest slave plantation in Cabell, Wayne and Mason Counties in 1850 and 1860. The Jenkins family, according to the agriculture census of 1850, had improved 1500 acres for use of the total acreage of 2395 and with 1700 improved in 1860 (William, Thomas, and Albert). The buildings on the plantation in the land tax records were valued at \$5000, the highest value in the county (Cabell Land Tax Records 1850 & 60). Capt. Jenkins in 1850 values the plantation at \$80,000, highest in the county, and in 1860 all three sons land value totals \$195,000 (\$65,000 each) with the next highest value at \$105,000 (John Morris) and the third highest at \$50,000 (Peter Buffington's two farms). Capt. Jenkins' sons in 1860 had the highest value of farm implements and equipment; in most products produced the highest yield in the county. For example, the slaves produced in 1860: 2200 bushels of wheat (highest yield); 7000 bushels of Indian corn (highest yield); 300 bushels of potatoes (second highest yield); 100 bushels of sweet potatoes; \$200 worth of fruit; 1300 lbs of butter (second highest yield); and 100 bushels of oats. The slaves tended the largest number of horses, 46, compared to second largest, 16 (on the second largest plantation); the second largest number of milch cows, 34, and the second largest number of oxen, 19; 3 mules; and the largest number of cattle, 425, compared to the next largest of 150. The plantation did not raise sheep, but had 300 swine (largest number compared to next largest number of 200), and it had the highest value of livestock, \$12,300, compared to \$6000. The plantation did not report any homemade manufactured products in 1850 or 1860. The plantation did not raise tobacco, peas and beans, flax, grass seed, hay, produce, or buckwheat, and it did not produce wine, maple sugar, molasses, beeswax, honey, or wool like others in the county. (Cabell Co. Agriculture Census 1850 & 1860) Thus, slaves on

the Jenkins Plantation spent time in the field, tending livestock, and raising horses as well as other labor required to run a plantation. Docks on the Ohio River had warehouses for products that had to be shipped. Because, only in 1850, were manufactured goods reported sold (\$90) (Cabell County Agricultural Census 1850), an artisan community probably did not develop beyond what was needed on the plantation. Household slaves did not need to attend to a large family. Only 4 children were raised by Capt. Jenkins and his wife who died in 1843.

Dr. Davis-DeEulis relates that Mrs. Jenkins read from the Bible to the slaves and some could read. There is debate as to whether or not the slaves were formally educated. However, church records do indicated that some of the slaves could read or write. One slave is known to have escaped and was returned.

Names of slaves on the plantation are found in records such as deeds, birth and death records, wills, and church records. Not all the names of the slaves appear in the records since Cabell County birth and death records were not recorded until 1853. In these records several slaves were born or died on the plantation (see table on page 11). One additional name appears in the Greenbottom Church records, Pagga (KYOWVA Gen.).

Capt. Jenkins ran the plantation most of his life. His sons, William and Thomas (Albert was living in Washington, DC, 1857-60), begin appearing in separate households on the plantation during the 1850s, and by 1860, the original plantation was divided into three sections. According to Richard R. Richardson's obituary, he acted as overseer for Capt. Jenkins in his latter years (1850s) (Richardson). Another individual who told he was an overseer on the Jenkins Plantation was Hooper B. Stevens who told his children he acted as overseer during the Civil War (Yoho 65). Other records and correspondence from Gen. Albert G. Jenkins indicates that his father-in-law James Bowlin ran the plantation during the Civil War (Dickinson 49-50).

Capt. Jenkins' will made special mention of two of his slaves. He bequeathed to his sister, Eustatia Lacy, his slave Mary and her issue. He requested that his slave Jacob and, after Eustatia's death, Mary and her issue, be sold to the highest bidder of his three sons. (Jenkins, William, Will Book 2 page 343) In 1870, Mary, a 35 year old domestic servant, and her issue, George, 15 year old farm laborer, Cristine, 12, and John P., 3 were living in the household of James B. Bowlin, guardian of Albert G. Jenkin's children. Also, Anderson Rose, a 35 year old African-American farm laborer lived in the Bowlin household. Family oral history relates that Mary was the Jenkins' children's "nanny." (Wilson). By 1873, Mary was living in the household of Thomas Jefferson Jenkins. She stayed with the family after the Civil War until 1873 when she left Greenbottom after the death of Thomas Jefferson Jenkins. Mary told the family she could not take any more deaths. (see Memoir of Susan B. Holderby in possession of the Greenbottom Society, Inc.)

Involuntary servitude or slavery did not end in the area until the West Virginia Statehood Bill was passed in June 1863. When the State of West Virginia petitioned the US Congress to become a state, the first Statehood Bill was rejected because it required that no African-Americans be allowed to reside in the state (Riddel). This act demonstrates a strong prejudice in West Virginia's founding fathers that needs to be explored such as John S. Carlile who ran on an Anti-Catholic platform in 1855 (Hechler).

West Virginia needs a site to research and interpret African-American history prior to and during the Civil War. The Historic Jenkins Plantation Museum provides an opportunity to satisfy this need.

Green Bottom Slaves Birth & Death Records

Name	Record Source	Date Recorded	Other
Georgiana	Cabell Birth Records	Aug. 31, 1853	Female - Mother: Delpha; father's occupation, farmer
Erdline		Mar. 10, 1853	Female - Mother: Martha; father's occupation, farmer
Isaac		Sept. 1854	Male - Mother: Marthy; father's occupation, farmer
Georgeana	Cabell Birth Records		Female - Mother: Delfy; father's occupation, farmer
Erdline			Female - Mother: Elrice(?); father's occupation, farmer
Susan			Female - Mother: Emily; father's occupation, farmer
Mary Jane	Cabell Birth Records		Female - Mother: Shald (?); father's occupation, farmer
Shedneck			Male - Mother: Harriett; father's occupation, farmer
Mark			Male - Mother: Julia; father's occupation, farmer
Reuben	Cabell Death Records	1853	96 years old - Occupation farmer
Reuben		1854	75 years old
Jermiah Adkins		Nov 15, 1859	3 yrs old; parents Hamilton & Mary
Adoline	Cabell Birth Records	Oct. 1859	Female - Mother: Adaline
Catherine		Aug. 20, 1855	Female - Mother: ? - Slave of Th. J. Jenkins
Edwin		1855	Male - Mother: ? - Slave of (O) T. Jenkins
Hezekiah	Cabell Birth Records	Mar. 15, 1855	Male - Mother: ? - Slave of Wm. Jenkins
Nathaniel		Apr. 20, 1855	Male - Mother: ? - Slave of Wm. Jenkins
Preston		Jan. 24, 1855	Male - Mother: ? - Slave of Wm. Jenkins
Adaline Jenkins	Cabell Birth Records	Aug. 10, 1858	Female - Mother: Charlotte - Slave of AG Jenkins
Henry Jenkins		May 1, 1858	Male - Mother: Emily - Slave of Wm. Jenkins
Margaret Jenkins		Mar. 27, 1858	Female - Mother: Adaline - Slave of Wm. Jenkins

Sources: KYOWVA Gen. Soc. Cabell Co. (W) Va Annotated Deaths: 1853 - 1859. &
KYOWVA Gen. Soc. Cabell Co (W) Va Annotated Births: 1853-1859.

Captain William Jenkins

The site is significant due to its association with events that contribute to broad patterns of the history of western expansion in a slave state, its embodiment of distinctive characteristics of early settlers, its yield of information important to the history of West Virginia, and its associated with the lives of Capt. William Jenkins and Albert G. Jenkins who are significant to our past.

Capt. William A. Jenkins, father of Confederate Brigadier General Albert G. Jenkins for whom the historic house is named was born in ca. 1778 and was the son of Eustace Jenkins who is believed to have fought in the War of 1812, and no mention is made of his mother.

Capt. William A. Jenkins obtained his fortune by shipping tobacco, grain, and livestock up the James River to Lynchburg, Virginia, and later shipping wheat to Brazil and bringing back coffee (Dickinson, "Historical Survey..."3). Family descendant Victor Wilson located in Nags Head, North Carolina, additional information about Capt. Jenkins shipping business such as the names of his ships, date he sold his business before 1820, and two shipping manifests (Wilson). Capt. Jenkins shipped timbers into Manteo, North Carolina to build the southern railroad. (Wilson) More information about Capt. Jenkins family may be found in the Nags Head area.

Capt. Jenkins married, 1824, Jeanette Grigsby McNutt (1803-1843) whose father, Alexander McNutt fought in the Revolutionary War. Her mother was Rachel Grigsby McNutt. Both of her parents were from Rockbridge County, Virginia, where Capt. Jenkins resided before moving to the Ohio Valley. He bought 334 acres on the north fork of the James River in Rockbridge County and named the farm "Buffalo Forge." Capt. Jenkins, like many of his peers, moved from Tidewater Virginia to the western frontier in the early 1800s. His sister, Eustatia J.

Jenkins (Lacy) moved to Greenbottom with her brother and later married David R. Lacy, a brick mason in Cabell County. (Dickinson, *Jenkins* ... 9-11)

Capt. Jenkins represents an early Virginia businessman who gained his fortune in the business class, purchased land to enter into the landed gentry class, and married into the old southern, landed gentry class, the McNutt Family. Capt. Jenkins, also, is significant as an historical figure, because he was a prominent businessman in Virginia who had trade and political connections in the United States, Caribbean, Central America, and South American. US businessmen were notorious for their involvement in the politics of other American countries, especially Cuba, just prior to the Civil War.

Capt. Jenkins purchased 4,395 acres from William H. Cabell Sept. 20, 1825 for \$15,000, and he moved to Cabell County ca. 1826 with his wife, Jeanette, sister Eustatia, and daughter, Eustacia (1825- before 1870; married, Pembroke Waugh, before 1850). (Dickinson 19) West Virginia Secretary of State and historian, Ken Hechler, tells that Capt. Jenkins decided to purchase the property on the Ohio River after he accompanied Robert Fulton on his first historic trip down the Ohio River by steamboat (Hechler). He and his family first lived in a temporary house built behind the present main house as the main house was being constructed. Capt. Jenkins began a new shipping business on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. He shipped by steamboat to New Orleans produce, livestock, cattle, hogs, and other items for market (Hechler June 28, 1961).

In the temporary house, Capt. Jenkins three sons were born: Thomas Jefferson [born Nov. 22, 1826, died Aug 1, 1872; married first, Arianna Buffington (1831-1851) in 1851, and Susan L. Holderby (1836-1927) in 1856]; William Alexander [born Nov. 21, 1828, died Apr. 18, 1877; married, Julia M. Reed (1853-

1894) in 1853]; and Albert Gallatin, born Nov. 10, 1830 (Dickinson, *Jenkins... 11-13*). Capt. Jenkins hired a tutor for his children and set up a special school on the plantation (Hechler June 29, 1961). Charles Ambler, author of *A History of Education in West Virginia*, states that landowners of plantations supplemented the salary of tutors by setting up schools for other children in the neighborhood and these schools later became common schools (Ambler 1). Thus, the Greenbottom School is significant because it falls into this early mode of education on plantations.

Capt. Jenkins died in 1859. At the time of his death he was a very wealthy man. He left money and a house in Lynchburg, Virginia to his daughter, Eustacia A. Waugh. He left thousands of dollars, personal property, and the Greenbottom Plantation to his three sons. (William Jenkins)

Women of Greenbottom

The site is significant due to its association with events that contribute to broad patterns of the history of women, its embodiment of distinctive characteristics of women in the antebellum and Civil War period, its yield of information important to the history of women, and its associated with the lives of women significant to our past.

For example, Jeanette McNutt Jenkins (died 1843) was influential in the education and religious practices at Greenbottom. Also, according to Dr. Davis-DeEulis, she was largely responsible for the reading culture at Greenbottom (Davis-DeEulis).

Even though it was not common to educate female children, Eustacia Jenkins received an education at Greenbottom that prepared her to further her education first at college, the Steubenville Female Seminary in Steubenville, Ohio, (Jenkins, Jeanette and



Greenbottom School before and after windows added.



Susan Holderby Jenkins. She wrote her memoirs about being a Confederate widow in West Virginia.



Alberta Gallatin Jenkins Childes
1861-1948

Gallatin Jenkins, born April 5, 1861, was an actress who made her debut in St. Louis in 1886 and retired in 1920. She married Edwin Ogden Chiles and resided in New York City where she was a founder of the Edgar Allan Poe Society of America, and she died in 1948. (Dickinson *Jenkins...* 80)

Margaret Virginia Jenkins, born April 25, 1863, received an education in Ohio and in Kentucky, and she travelled in Europe and America. She was an authority on Egyptian art and lectured in New York City. Margaret Jenkins returned to Greenbottom in the 1920s, lived in the house until she was evicted by the Northcotts in 1931, and died at Lesage in April 1940. In her last years, she became a much talked about character in the Greenbottom area.

Eustacia Jenkins letters) and later at the Cincinnati Ohio Conservatory of Music (Hechler June 29 & July 1, 1961). She was a well educated women who had a special musical talent. She often returned to Greenbottom to stay with her father (Eustacia Jenkins letters). She inherited her father's house in Lynchburg, Va. (Jenkins Will)

Albert Jenkins' daughters were both exceptional. Alberta

While in residence, if someone trespassed on her land, she made them perform menial tasks on the property in payment (Dickinson *Jenkins*... 80-82). F. A. MacDonald, whose father rented the house from Ms. Jenkins around the turn of the century, relates "that the 'over and under' gun of Miss Jenkins was not a double barreled shotgun, but that while the lower barrel was that of a conventional shot gun the upper was a rifle barrel which shot a regular bullet." (MacDonald) Other accounts of Miss Jenkins tell of her sitting on her front porch reading until late hours by lamp light. (MacDonald)



Margaret Virginia Jenkins
1863-1940

The Jenkins women endured much and accomplished much during their lifetimes. For example, not only did Albert's daughters survive to pass down the families heritage, Thomas Jefferson Jenkins' wife, Susan L. Holderby Jenkins survived until 1912. She wrote a journal that gives an excellent account of the life of a widow of a Confederate (Thomas died in 1872) after the Civil War (Susan Holderby Jenkins).



Susan Holderby Jenkins Wedding Portrait
1836-1927

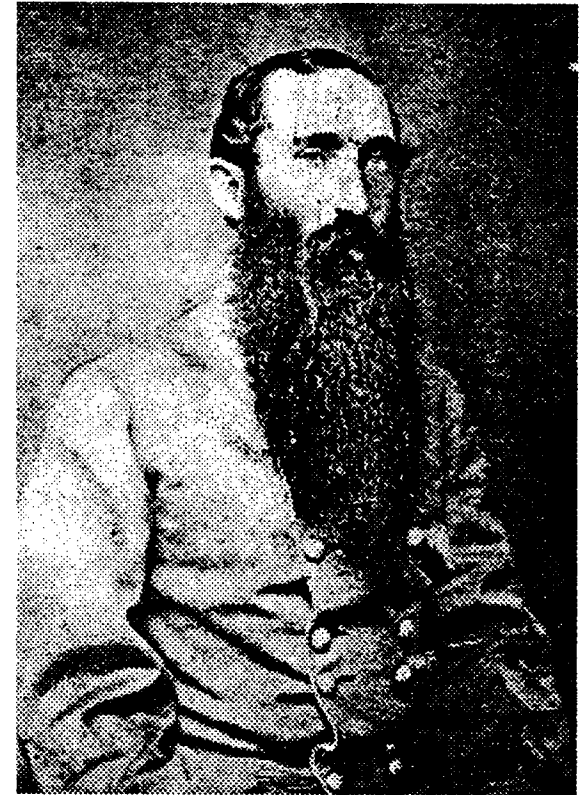


Thomas Jefferson Jenkins Wedding Portrait
1826-1872

**Albert G. Jenkins, Thomas Jefferson Jenkins,
and Dr. William Jenkins**

Capt. Jenkins' three sons were among the privileged class who even on the frontier received an excellent education due to the efforts and wealth of their father. All three sons of Capt. William Jenkins excelled in school, first at Marshall Academy and then at Jefferson College in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, where they all three received A.B. degrees. Marshall Academy, which was established in 1837, was under the guidance of Rev. Josiah B. Poage, Principal, and graduate of Princeton University (Wellman 86). According to

Robert Chase Toole, Marshall Academy displayed the quality of education in the early 1800s which varied depending on the Principal. Rev. Poage, who was well educated increased the enrollment at Marshall, offered courses in the Classical Department to prepare students for college such as Latin, Greek, history, math, philosophy, astronomy, and chemistry (Toole). Jefferson



Brigadier General Albert Gallatin
Jenkins, CSA (1830-1864)

College was at the time the third largest college in the U.S. with just Harvard and Princeton with a larger student body and faculty (Hechler June 30, 1961). Thomas Jefferson returned to Greenbottom, but William Alexander and Albert Gallatin continued on in college. William Alexander enrolled at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, received a



Dr. William Jenkins (1828-1877)

medical degree, and moved to St. Louis to practice. Albert Gallatin enrolled at Harvard Law School, received a L.L.B. degree in July 1850, and returned to western Virginia to practice law. (Hechler July 1, 1961) Receiving a formal education in medicine or law prior to the Civil War was rare. Most doctors and lawyers served apprenticeships with professionals in their fields and passed the state exams in order to receive a license.

Most historians would agree that the most significant aspect of the Greenbottom site is its association with the birth and life of Brigadier General Albert Gallatin Jenkins, a national and international historical figure. This is due to his association with events that contribute to broad patterns of our history, his life that embodies distinctive characteristics of the antebellum and Civil War period that yields information important to the history of

southern landed gentry and politicians. In addition, he is associated with the lives of other significant historical leaders.

As mentioned earlier, Gen. Jenkins was born at Greenbottom in 1830 to Capt. William Jenkins and Jeanette McNutt Jenkins. He was the fourth and youngest child with one older sister and two older brothers. Jenkins excelled at an early age entering Marshall Academy with his elder brothers at the age of 15. He graduated from Jefferson College with a A.B. degree in 1848, and he graduated from Harvard Law School in 1850 with a L.L.B. degree in law at the age of 20. (Hechler June 29 - July 1, 1961)

After law school, Albert Jenkins returned to Greenbottom and prepared to leave on an extensive trip throughout South America (Dickinson *Jenkins*...28-29). Little is known at this time about the trip or any other trips to South America, but because of southern interest and interference with politics in the lower Americas, Jenkins' travels and activities may prove to be more internationally significant than previously thought. Ken Hechler quotes in his series of articles on the early life of Albert Jenkins the following from the *London Index*, July 14, 1864: "When almost a boy, fresh from school and the study of his profession of the law, the threatened struggle of a people in South America against the despotism of their rulers, attracted him [Albert Jenkins] from position and fortune at home to dare climate and danger in the aid of their cause, and although the occasion he coveted did not occur, yet the unselfish and enthusiastic espousal of the cause of the weak over the strong was early augury of the character and career of the man." (Hechler June 28, 1961) Both father and son were known to have had a great interest in international politics, especially in regard to other American countries.

Several Ohio Valley frontier landed gentry were involved in the failed attempt in the 1850s to take over Cuba prior to the

Civil War in order to increase the number of slave states in the Union. (Hugh 218-232) The Jenkins family members meet the profile of those involved: land owners from the western frontier who supported slavery and had a keen interest in American politics. Any possible connection between the Jenkins family and the Ostend Manifesto and William Walker who took over Nicaragua in 1856 needs investigating. Additional research into the Jenkins family's involvement in Caribbean, Central American, and South American politics is needed.

Soon after the trip, Albert Jenkins returned to Greenbottom and established law practices in both Greenbottom (where his father had a law office built for him) and Charleston, West Virginia. In Charleston he went into partnership (1850-52) with George W. Summers, former US Congressman, candidate for Virginia Governor in 1851 on the Whig Party ticket, and later Judge in Kanawha County, who voted against secession as a delegate in Kanawha County (Dickinson *Jenkins*...29). George Summers purchased James Madison Laidley's House near Charleston, West Virginia prior to the Civil War. The home is known as Glenwood, and it was restored by the Quarrier family and given to the University of the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies with an endowment. The home is currently operated by the University and leased for weddings, receptions, etc.

Albert Jenkins, like the other members of his family, was a Democrat. Jenkins began his political career in 1855, when he campaigned across the state for Charles Lewis, the Democratic candidate for the US Senate. Charles Lewis' opponent was John S. Carlile of Clarksburg, a member of the American Party, commonly called the "Know Nothing" party. Carlile later was a leader in the movement to create the State of West Virginia. He also served as one of West Virginia's first US Senators. Carlile ran on an anti-Catholic ticket. Albert Jenkins debated Carlile at Hurricane Bridge, Sept. 20, 1856, and he was considered the

winner of the debate. Jenkins was already influencing local politics. He not only won the debate with Carlile, but a prior debate with local political leader, James Laidley, also a member of the American Party. Statewide Lewis lost by a little over 600 votes, but Jenkins was able to insure Lewis' win in Cabell County. (Hechler July 6, 1961)

Thus, in 1856, the local Democratic Party nominated Albert Jenkins for the National Democratic Convention, and in April, in Charleston, Jenkins was elected a delegate. He was one of 15 delegates from Virginia, and he made an impressive show at the Cincinnati Convention. He was a strong supporter of James Buchanan for President. Among the delegates who attended with him were six US Congressmen: James A. Sedden from Richmond, 1845-51 (later Secretary of War for the Confederacy), Richard Kidder Meade from Petersburg, 1847-53; Fayette McMullen from Rye Cove, 1849-57 (later Governor of the Washington Terr.), M. R. H. Garnett from Loretto, 1855-61; Paulus Powell from Amherst, 1849-57; and Thomas S. Bocock from Appomattox, 1847-61; and two future Confederate Generals: A. A. Chapman and John B. Floyd (also, former Governor of Virginia). (Hechler July-5, 1961 & *Biographical Directory*)

The Jenkins' family descendants have a china plate that was used by "the President" at Greenbottom. Oral history identifies "the President" as President James Buchanan. Additional research needs to be done on this oral history. Somewhere in President Buchanan's papers a trip to Greenbottom may be mentioned. (Wilson)

Albert Jenkins went on the road after the Cincinnati Convention debating with others on the topic of Buchanan vs Fillmore the candidate the American Party supported. He debated James Laidley from Charleston at Barboursville and was considered the victor. He debated John S. Carlile at Hurricane Bridge,

Sept. 20, 1856, and was rated in most of the papers as the better speaker. Jenkins brought Cabell County in for Buchanan, and Buchanan also, won in Virginia. (Hechler July 6, 1961) Clearly a rivalry with Carlile began. Jenkins influence over local politics was also clear.

Albert Jenkins was nominated and elected by the Virginia Democratic Convention to the 11th District Congressional seat in 1856. His opponent in the election was John S. Carlile, still an American Party candidate. After a series of debates, many in Carlile's home county of Harrison, Jenkins won the election; he took 13 of the 19 counties in the 11th District including Carlile's home county. The main issue of the campaign was federal land distribution which Carlile supported. Jenkins was a "states rights" Democrat. (Hechler July 7-13, 1961)

Albert Jenkins had never held a local office above delegate to the Democratic Convention, not at the county level nor state level in Richmond. He rose up in Virginia politics by going straight to the US Congress at the age of 26 years, beating out a veteran politician, John S. Carlile. Carlile, the incumbent, had been the only non-Democratic member of Congress from Virginia (Hechler July 11, 1961) serving in 1855-57 & 1861-63 (under the revisionist government of Virginia in Wheeling) (*Biographical Directory*). Albert Jenkins, like many of his fellow Virginia Congressmen, was of the wealthy, the landed gentry class. These Virginians were able to generate local political support and hold office if they so chose.

In 1857, Albert Jenkins had his first encounter with Eli Thayer (elected in 1857 to the US Congress) in his own neighborhood. John C. Underwood encouraged Eli Thayer to establish one of his antislavery, industrial colonies along the Ohio River in the slave state of Virginia in the area. Underwood was run out of the strongly Democratic area for attending a Republican convention.

In May, Thayer came to the area and after visiting Kentucky, he went to Wayne County where he decided to establish a colony. Local property owners went to the Greenbottom Plantation to complain to the newly elected Congressman Jenkins. At a protest meeting in Guyandotte in August, Jenkins condemned the Ceredo plan. (Hechler July 14, 1961) This was the beginning of the Jenkins - Thayer and Guyandotte - Ceredo feud.

Congressman Jenkins began his service in Washington, DC in December 1857 in the 35th Congress. At that time there were 128 Democrats, 92 Republicans, and 14 Native American Party representatives. The Congressman expressed a keen interest in all discussion on tariffs while in Congress and was a strong supporter of the Monroe Doctrine that discouraged European countries involvement in the Americas. (Hechler July 18, 1861). In addition, Jenkins debated Edward Wade on the admission of Kansas to the Union and John Sherman on the admission of Minnesota (The question was states rights and Jenkins favored admission of Minnesota even though it was to be a free state.) as well as arguing for the slavery question (Jan. 12, 1859). (Hechler July 17-18, 1961)

Jenkins married Virginia Southard Bowlin, June 14, 1858, daughter of James Butler Bowlin from St. Louis, a US Congressman, 1843-51. During his lifetime Bowlin also held ambassadorial posts in Colombia and Paraguay as well as Judge and District Attorney in St. Louis. (Hechler July 18, 1961) Their first child, James Bowlin Jenkins, was born in Washington, Jan. 29, 1860 (Dickinson 80). Albert's marriage to a former US Congressman's daughter is another example of his connections with other politicians in the US Congress.

Congressman Jenkins returned to Washington, DC, in 1859 when he defeated his challenger, James Madison Laidley of Kanawha County, whom he had defeated earlier in a debate at



James Bowlin Jenkins
1860 - 1888

he declined. (Hechler July 21, 1961)

In 1861, the Virginia Congressman was a delegate to the Confederate Provisional Congress (*Biographical Directory*). He joined the Confederate Army with no military experience. Like many southern leaders, he immediately began to recruit soldiers for Virginia and the Confederacy after Virginia succeeded from the Union.

Albert Gallatin Jenkins' military career began April 20, 1861, and continued until his death, May 21, 1964 (Dickinson *Jenkins*... 38 & 73) for over three years. During that time, Jenkins

Barboursville. Once again Jenkins won 13 of the 19 counties of the 11th Virginia Congressional District. Before he left for Washington, his father, Capt. William Jenkins, died at the age of 82, November 17, 1859. (Hechler July 19-21) His mother Jeanette had died several years earlier in 1843 (Dickinson *Jenkins*...27). This was to be Jenkins' last Federal office. He, like many of his southern peers in Congress, did not return to Washington, DC, in 1861. Jenkins ended his days in the US Congress on March 1, 1861. He was nominated again to run for Congress, March 28, but

moved up in rank from elected Captain of the Border Rangers to Brigadier General. Jenkins received his brigadier general of cavalry commission in August 1862, and he took command of the 8th and 14th Virginia Cavalry Regiments. (Dickinson *Jenkins*...50)

Many individuals at the time, such as Brigadier General John "Tiger" McCausland (Johnson 28), as well as some Civil War historians considered generals such as Jenkins, "political generals," "Political generals" were previously politicians who had no prior military experience or training at a military institute such as the Virginia Military Institute and who were believed to have risen up through the ranks because of their political connections instead of qualifications.

General Samuel Jones once said that Jenkins was a "bold and gallant soldier... 'but not a good administrative officer'... Jones believed him capable of great improvement, and feared making any realignments due to the fact that '...many of his ..men are his constituents, and he has been a politician ... and still has aspirations that way'." (Dickinson *Jenkins*...59) However, his ability to command did not appear to be affected by his lack of experience or training. He did not win every conflict, but neither did other commanders with formal military training. As the following brief description of his military career will attest.

Albert Jenkins came to Guyandotte, Virginia on April 5, 1861, and spoke before the Virginia militia, the Border Rangers, organized in 1860 to protect the Virginia flag. The Border Rangers left for Greenbottom with Jenkins where they set up an encampment and elected officers. The Ironton paper referred to the camp as a secession camp and stated that Jenkins went to eastern Virginia for arms. Jenkins' men joined at Camp Tompkins Confederate recruits from Wayne County, Fayette County, and Kanawha County. Capt. Jenkins was made their commander.

(Dickinson *Jenkins*... 38). The Confederate's warfare in western Virginia soon became one of raids and assaults on military installations, camps, and transportation routes such as railroads.

Capt. Jenkins was well known to the Union leadership, and his home was targeted more than once by Union raiding parties. Thus, the plantation is the location of several historical events such as the organization of the Border Rangers. While Capt. Jenkins was in Kanawha County, Col. Jesse Norton raided the Greenbottom Plantation (Dickinson *Jenkins*...41) and in June 1861, Lt. Col. George W. Neff set up camp at Greenbottom (Wallace 86). Also, Jenkins with and without his troops often returned home. When Jenkins' Border Rangers were at Greenbottom in July, they flagged down the steamer "Fannie McBurnie," and raided the boat taking swords and revolvers (Dickinson *Jenkins*...46).

In 1861, Jenkins took part in skirmishes or raids at Barboursville, Scary Creek, Piggott's Mill, Fayette Court House, and Guyandotte. (Dickinson *Jenkins*...38-49) Guyandotte, like Greenbottom, was targeted by the Union for retaliation acts because of its connection to local secessionists such as was Capt. Jenkins. The Union was quick in October to set up a recruiting camp, Camp Paxton, in the middle of the "hot bed of secessionist" in Guyandotte.

Col. Jenkins who had received his Lt. Colonel commission from the War Department Sept. 24, 1861 and Col. Clarkson were ordered by Gen. John B. Floyd (the same Floyd who attended the Democratic Convention in Cincinnati in 1856) to raid Camp Paxton. The over 800 Confederate Cavalry quickly overcame the less than 150 Union troops under Col. Kellian Van Rensselaer Whaley (later elected to Congress under the Wheeling Government of Virginia and West Virginia). Close to 100 prisoners were captured and taken to Libby Prison except Col. Whaley who

escaped. Five Union soldiers and two Confederate soldiers were reported dead with 10 Union soldiers wounded.

Col. Jenkins had gained national recognition, and his participation in the raid was in all accounts of the raid in the newspapers and personal recollections. For example, Dr. J. H. Rouse, Surgeon, 9th Reg. VA Volunteers, states the following about Jenkins in his account of the raid, *Horrible Massacre at Guyandotte, Va*, published in 1862:

"Their [seventy of the Union Troops in Camp Paxton cut off from weapons and quarters] only hope was to secret [sic] themselves or take to the mountains, as circumstances would admit, leaving about forth effective men to cope with eight hundred savage hell-hound rebel cavalry, men, headed by the unprincipled, inhuman fiend, called by rebels, Col. John Clarkson, of Kanawha, Va., and the notorious and no less unprincipled rebel, formerly known as Hon. A. G. Jenkins of Round Bottom, Va." (Rouse 7).

Dr. Rouse also writes that

"He [Jenkins] is far from what I expected to find him, I having but little acquaintance with him before our national difficulties, but, supposing from what I had heard from the mouths of his Secesh friends and others, I had expected to find him at least possessing some humanity, if not the qualities of a gentleman; but I regret to say that, if he ever possessed any of those ennobling qualities, the cause which he has expoused and the atrocious deeds he has committed have banished them far from him, now possessing with his superior and infamous heart too black to behold with the eye of imagination." (28)

Dr. J. Morris, also, a Federal Surgeon taken prisoner at Guyandotte, said the following about Jenkins: "They [Confederates] were commanded, as I have before said, by the notorious John Clarkson, of Kanawha, and the banditte [sic] Jenkins. I was acquainted with four of the rebels--James Harriford,---Streblin, Jenkins...." (Morris April 10, 1862)

The *New York Times* reported "The rebel portion of the inhabitants [of Guyandotte], it appears, were looking for the attack, and had a supper prepared for the rebel cavalry, who were headed by the notorious Jenkins, and numbered 800." The Cincinnati paper was even harsher. This was the same city that praised the Virginia Democratic delegation of which Gen. Jenkins was a part in 1856.

Rumors after the Confederates left the next morning that citizens of Guyandotte helped the Confederates and some even fired on Federal Troops so enraged the Union Troops arriving from Ceredo, Virginia, and Proctorville, Ohio (later additional troops from Gallipolis, Ohio) that Col. Zeigler ordered the town burnt. Current research has not turned up any community, northern nor southern, that was burned for its sympathies before Guyandotte, Virginia. Papers all over the Union reported the burning and declared it justified because Guyandotte was a "hot bed of secessionists."

Joe Geiger, author of *The Civil War in Cabell County* states that because of Jenkins' raid and the threat of possible other raids, an unusually large number of Union Troops, 3,000 to 5,000, for a western frontier area, were stationed in Cabell County the rest of the war. (Geiger Nov. 1, 1993) Therefore, Jenkins had a significant impact on the Union's activities on the Ohio River front.

In 1862, Jenkins saw action in Paintsville, Ky. and Raleigh Court House/Beckley. He was elected to the Confederate Congress in February 1862 and resigned his military commission. His time in Richmond was short, he was recommissioned as a brigadier general of cavalry in August. General Robert E. Lee said the following about Jenkins appointment: "During my service in the Kanawha Valley I considered Col. Jenkins ... the best of the cav. officers." (a quote in Dickinson's book, *Jenkins of Greenbottom*: 50)

General Jenkins is one of only five native West Virginia Confederate Generals. Three other Confederate Generals are claimed by West Virginia because they were residents of the state. On the Union side, only three Generals are native to West Virginia with two more residents of the state (two Brevet Brigadier generals were also on the Union side). (Cohen 115)

Jenkins, in 1862, left Salt Sulphur Springs on August 20 to begin a 500 mile raid that ended in Sept. He lead his raiding party and fought at Huttonsville, Buckhannon, Weston, Glenville, Spencer, Ripley, Ravenswood, Portland and Racine, Ohio, (first Confederates to raise a Confederate flag on Union soil. At Racine 400 Union troops surrendered and Jenkins took arms, ammunition, and stores), Pt. Pleasant, Buffalo, (went to Greenbottom Plantation to rest and rode through Barboursville, Logan, and Beckley), Coal River, and Charleston. After fighting under General Loring at Red House Shoals, General Loring ordered a retreat out of the Kanawha Valley. General Lee ordered Jenkins to join his "Valley Defenses" in the Shenandoah where he spent the winter of '62-63 in Salem, Virginia. (Dickinson *Jenkins...* 49-54) His raid was similar to the famous raid by Brig. General John Hunt Morgan through Union territory in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. Both raids kept the Union citizens and soldiers along the Ohio Valley on edge throughout the early years of the war.



House in Gettysburg where Gen. Jenkins taken after he was wounded.

Eighteen-sixty-three began in much the same way, Jenkins began raiding parties in western Virginia. General Jenkins' troops fought at Hurricane Bridge, Buffalo, and Pt. Pleasant (moved to Howells Mill in Cabell County to camp). He then left western Virginia for the Shenandoah Valley. In June, he had engagements at Berryville, Martinsburg, (first of Lee's forces to advanced into Pennsylvania), Greencastle, Pa., Chambersburg, (back to Hagerstown, MD), Greencastle, Waynesboro, Fairfield, Chambersburg, Shippensburg, Carlisle, Harrisburg (highest point Confederates reach in the north), Mechanicsburg, and Gettysburg. On the second day of fighting at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863, General Jenkins was wounded in the head by a Union shell. General Rodes reported that Jenkins won distinction at the Gettysburg campaign. (Dickinson *Jenkins...* 54-64) A monument marks the place at Gettysburg where General Jenkins fought and mentions his name.

In August, General Jenkins attempted to resign due to his wife's failing eye sight. General Jeb Stuart recommended the acceptance of the resignation hoping to get a more disciplined and experienced officer in his place. General Lee would not accept his

resignation because he had no one to replace Jenkins. Soon after, Jenkins was recommended for promotion to major general. Sec. of War Sedden (a fellow Democratic delegate in 1856) set the recommendation aside until a division appointment became available. Jenkins was detached from Gen. Stuart and sent south in the Shenandoah Valley. (Dickinson *Jenkins...* 67)

Gen. Jenkins, in 1864, was under the newly established Dept. of Southwestern Virginia with Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge as commander. General Breckinridge, in April, with 4,000 of his 7,000 infantry departed for Staunton and left the defense of the Trans-Allegheny Railroad in Dublin to Jenkins and the remaining men. (Dickinson *Jenkins...* 68) James I. Robertson, Jr. writes in *The Civil War Battlefield Guide* that "Cloyd's Mountain was the largest Civil War battle fought in southwestern Virginia." General George R. Crook with 6,500 men and 12 artillery on May 9 attacked General Jenkins who had 2,400 men and 10 artillery at Cloyd's Mountain outside of Dublin. Col. Rutherford B. Hayes, later President of the US, lead the Ohio brigade under Gen. Crook. Gen. Jenkins was wounded in the arm, captured by the Union, and died, on May 21, from complications. (Robertson 200-02) Dickinson reports in his book that Col. Hayes wrote that he had General Jenkins' spurs. (Dickinson *Jenkins...* 74) The future President Hayes must have considered Jenkins' spurs to be significant enough to take the spurs home.

Oral history in the Dennison Family reports that Union soldier Jonathan Dennison was the soldier who shot Jenkins at Cloyd's Mountain. Dennison spotted General Jenkins on a white horse, broke off a twig that was in his line of fire, and shot the General off his horse. (Dennison)

The Confederates were outnumbered and lost. After Gen. Jenkins was wounded, Col. John McCausland took over and retreated. Soon after the battle, McCausland finally received his

much sought after promotion to brigadier general. (Johnson 32) He, throughout his lifetime, blamed the loss of the battle on Gen. Jenkins. His account of the battle was the one passed down because he had the advantage of outliving Jenkins. He felt that he deserved the command before Jenkins because he had been trained at Virginia Military Academy.

Modern historians such as James I. Robertson, Jr., do not put the blame for the loss of the battle on Gen. Jenkins because he was greatly outnumbered. Gen. Jenkins may not have been the best general the south had, but he was extremely successful in commanding raiding parties. Attempts to remove Jenkins by other commanders like McCausland and Stuart did not have much of an impact. Thus, he was either considered by the Confederate high command as being a much greater general than McCausland later recounted or his political influence was substantial. Either way, General Albert G. Jenkins was a significant historical Civil War figure.

When General Jenkins died, he left a great deal of wealth. He had property in Cincinnati as well as Greenbottom. His children received interest in the property. His widow, Virginia, married a northern newspaperman and had a falling out with her family over the marriage. Virginia sued for her interest in Gen. Jenkins estate after the war as did many people who lost property due to Gen. Jenkins' raids. (Dickinson 80-82)

General Jenkins' brothers also played significant roles in the War. Dr. William Jenkins was a Confederate Surgeon and Thomas Jenkins served with the Border Rangers throughout the war. Both brothers survived the war, but not the after effects. Thomas and William and their families spent many years in court fighting off law suits trying to lay claim to their property due to the number of raids in which the Jenkins brothers participated. The Greenbottom/Jenkins' law suits and other acts of retaliation that

the Confederate sympathizers endured after the war well represented such acts committed throughout the south. Confederates in West Virginia, like their counterparts in the Confederate states, went through a period of reconstruction. This era of West Virginia heritage is neglected and needs research and interpretation.



Dudley J. Jenkins, Sheriff of Cabell County, 1893-96